

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 04098 172003Z

72

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 USSS-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /027 W

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P 171920Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRITY 8418

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 4098

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECVISIT - ADMINISTRATIVE/LOGISTICS - SECRETARY'S CAR

REF: A. STATE 084346 B. STATE 085750

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ESCOVAR SALOM HAD MENTIONED AT TIME OF LUERS' VISIT THAT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW TRANSPORTATION OF LIMOUSINE TO CARACAS FOR PURPOSE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS UNNECESSARY IN VIEW OF LOCAL AVAILABILITY OF ARMORED LIMOUSINES. IN ADDITION, HE BELIEVED THAT IMPORTATION OF SUCH A VEHICLE WOULD LEAVE SECRETARY OPEN TO ADVERSE POLITICALLY INSPIRED COMMENTARY. HE WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE BELIEVED USE OF OUR OWN VEHICLE FOR THE VISIT WAS NECESSARY, THAT HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION.

2. IN MEETING LAST NIGHT (APRIL 16), DIRECTOR GENERAL RAPHAEL EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS. WE SUGGESTED THAT ORDINARY VENEZUELAN LICENSE PLATES COULD BE AFFIXED TO OUR VEHICLE UPON ARRIVAL, AS WAS DONE DURING VISIT OF MRS. NIXON. HE APPEARED TO FIND THIS PROCEDURE COMFORTING, ALTHOUGH HE WAS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPECTACLE PROVIDED BY THE ARRIVAL AND UNLOADING OF THE VEHICLE.

3. THIS MAY NOT BE AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN ANY CASE THE PLANE TRANSPORTING VEHICLE WOULD HAVE TO LAND AND UNLOAD AT MARACAY AIRPORT (WE ARE CONFIRMING THIS ADVICE), WITH APPROXIMATELY A TWO-HOUR DRIVE TO MAIQUETIA. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, IT OULD
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PAGE 02 CARACA 04098 172003Z

BE NECESSARY TO TRANSPORT CAR TO VENEZUELA ON DAY PRIOR

TO VISIT AND NO LATER THAN MORNING OF THE VISIT.

4. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE THAT GOV WOULD BE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH
USE OF OUR OWN VEHICLE BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO AGREE IF WE
INSISTED.

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